

ASSEMBLY BILL

No. 1458

Introduced by Assembly Member De La Torre

February 22, 2005

An act to amend Section 280.5 of the Public Utilities Code, relating to telecommunications.

LEGISLATIVE COUNSEL'S DIGEST

AB 1458, as introduced, De La Torre. Telecommunications: lease of state property for wireless facilities: Digital Divide Account in the California Teleconnect Fund Administrative Committee Fund.

Existing law requires the Director of General Services, to compile and maintain an inventory of state-owned real property, excluding certain property, that may be available for lease to providers of wireless telecommunications services for location of wireless telecommunications facilities, and to provide a requesting party, upon payment of any applicable fee, with a copy of the inventory. Existing law authorizes the director to negotiate and enter into an agreement for the lease of certain department-managed and state-owned real property to any provider of wireless telecommunications services for location of its facilities, subject to specified conditions.

Existing law creates the Digital Divide Account within the California Teleconnect Fund Administrative Committee Fund in the State Treasury. Existing law requires that 15% of the revenues from fees collected from the lease of state-owned real property to the providers of wireless telecommunication services pursuant to the above-described provisions, except for revenues from fees collected from a lease agreement for access to Department of Transportation property or a lease agreement existing prior to January 1, 2004, be deposited in the Digital Divide Account, to be available, upon

appropriation by the Legislature, to finance digital divide projects through the Digital Divide Grant Program.

This bill would delete the above-described exception for revenue from a lease agreement existing prior to January 1, 2004, from the requirement that 15% of revenues from fees collected from the lease of state-owned real property to the providers of wireless telecommunication services be deposited in the Digital Divide Account.

Vote: majority. Appropriation: no. Fiscal committee: yes.
State-mandated local program: no.

The people of the State of California do enact as follows:

1 SECTION 1. Section 280.5 of the Public Utilities Code is
2 amended to read:

3 280.5. (a) Of the revenues from fees collected pursuant to
4 Section 14666.8 of the Government Code after the operative date
5 of this section, except for revenues from fees from a lease
6 agreement for access to Department of Transportation property
7 ~~or a lease agreement existing prior to the operative date of the~~
8 ~~section~~, 15 percent shall be available, upon appropriation by the
9 Legislature, for the purpose of addressing the state's digital
10 divide.

11 (b) Revenues described in subdivision (a) shall be deposited in
12 the Digital Divide Account, which is hereby established in the
13 California Teleconnect Fund Administrative Committee Fund
14 established pursuant to Section 270, to be used only for digital
15 divide pilot projects. Not more than 5 percent of the revenues
16 described in subdivision (a) may be used to pay the costs
17 incurred in connection with the administration of digital divide
18 pilot projects by the commission.

19 (c) (1) The Digital Divide Grant Program is hereby
20 established subject to the availability of funding pursuant to this
21 section. The commission may not implement the grant program
22 until the commission projects that at least five hundred thousand
23 dollars (\$500,000) will be available in the Digital Divide
24 Account during the calendar year following implementation,
25 based on money collected pursuant to Section 14666.8 of the
26 Government Code.

1 (2) The commission shall provide grants pursuant to this
2 subdivision on a competitive basis subject to criteria to be
3 established by the commission and in a way that disburses the
4 funds widely, including urban and rural areas. Grants shall be
5 awarded to community-based nonprofit organizations that are
6 exempt from taxation under Section 501(c)(3) of the Internal
7 Revenue Code for the purpose of funding community technology
8 programs.

9 (3) Recipients of grants pursuant to this subdivision shall
10 report to the commission annually on the effectiveness of the
11 grant program.

12 (4) The commission shall report to the Legislature and the
13 Governor annually on the effectiveness of the program
14 administered pursuant to this subdivision.

15 (d) For purposes of this section, “community technology
16 programs” means a program that is engaged in diffusing
17 technology in local communities and training local communities
18 in the use of technology, especially local communities that
19 otherwise would have no access or limited access to the Internet
20 and other technologies.

21 (e) For purposes of this section, “digital divide projects”
22 means community technology programs involved in activities
23 that include, but are not limited to, the following:

24 (1) Providing open access to and opportunities for training in
25 technology.

26 (2) Developing content relevant to the interests and wants of
27 the local community.

28 (3) Preparing youth for opportunities in the new economy
29 through multimedia training and skills.

30 (4) Harnessing technology for e-government services.